Grade 8 Science Syllabus

***Teacher:*** Mr. Jeremy Rasik

***Email:*** jrasik@lapazschool.org

***Phone:*** 8449-7003

[***https://lapazchirripocolegio2016-2017.wikispaces.com/8+Science***](https://lapazchirripocolegio2016-2017.wikispaces.com/8+Science)

**Course Description:** In this year’s eighth grade science course we will be using the process of scientific inquiry to explore natural phenomena. Students will investigate such topics as weather, climate, chemistry and the periodic table, eco-systems, body systems, energy, and outer space. We will do so using multimedia, class discussion, hands-on laboratory activities, projects and field trips. In addition, students will learn to organize, display and analyze data in scientific studies.

**Required Materials:**

• Computer • Lined paper

• Calculator • Graph paper

• Pencil • Binder

• Pencil sharpener • Dividers

• Colored pencils • Notebook of choice

• Markers • Folder

• Eraser • Ruler

• Highlighter • Compass

• Scissors • Protractor

• Glue • Agenda to record assignments

**Course Outline:**

*Trimester 1:* Scientific Method, Weather and Climate, Chemistry and the Periodic Table

*Trimester 2:* Eco-systems, Body Systems

*Trimester 3:* Energy, Outer-Space

**Course Goals:**

1. Understand the processes of scientific inquiry and technological design to investigate questions, conduct experiments and solve problems.
2. Understand the relationships among science, technology and society in historical and contemporary contexts.
3. Understand the fundamental concepts, principles and interconnections of the life, physical and Earth/Space sciences.

**What will be graded:**

The following components will be averaged to determine the final grade for each trimester. See information on the grading scale below.

• In-class assignments • Projects

• In-class discussions • Test and quizzes

• Homework • Portfolio selection pieces

• Labs

**Grading Scale:**

Across grade levels, student work and social development is assessed with a grading rubric from 0-4 *(Please see the student handbook for further information on the grading scale.)*

**0**: No Evidence **1**: Emerging **2**: Developing **3**: Proficient **4**: Exemplary

**Classroom Expectations**

*Rules are made to be broken while expectations are designed to be met*

**1.) Be Respectful:** All other expectations in the classroom are built on respect.Be respectful of your instructor, your classmates and other people’s property and ideas. Treat others in the way that you would like to be treated. Following this simple rule makes our classroom a safe place to have honest discussions and share opinions.

**2**.) **Be Prepared**: Come prepared to learn and to perform your best every day! Make sure to arrive to class on time with all appropriate materials. Assignments should be ready at the beginning of class on the day they are due. All reading or viewing assigned for homework is expected to be completed and you should come prepared with questions and contributions for class discussions.

**3.) Be Honest:** Ensure that all the work you turn in is your work. Do not resort to plagiarizing, copying lab write-ups, cheating on an exam, or lying about why an assignment was not completed. Students caught cheating will receive a zero on the assignments and be documented for academic dishonesty. Most importantly don’t cheat yourself out of valuable learning!

**4.) Be Proactive**: Students must take responsibility for their classroom performance and behavior. It’s ultimately up to you whether you will reach your maximum potential in the course or not. Get involved in class discussions and participate in the lab activities. We will be doing a lot of group work and each student is expected to make an effort to be actively involved during these projects. Please come see me if you have any questions or concerns.

**5.) Be Present**: Studies show that students who are at school and on time every day perform better academically than those who are often absent or come to school late. School should be one of your top priorities and you should always be present unless you are sick. You’ll find that exams are much more manageable when you learn and experience concepts in class along with your classmates.

**6.) Be A Communicator:** If there is an issue outside of the classroom that takes precedence over science class, please let me know. Your well-being, happiness, safety and family are extremely important. Keep me informed and we’ll work things out.

**7.) Be A Scientist:** Last but not least, approach our class with a scientific mindset.Take in information with a critical eye. Analyze the world around you and draw your own conclusions. Find creative solutions to solve problems. Don’t always accept the easy answer. We will be learning to critically analyze our experiences (things you see in your life, online, on TV, read, etc.) so keep an open eye and an open mind and always ask “Why?”

**Late/Make Up Work Policy:**

* Any work not turned in on time on the assigned due date will be *deducted 0.5 for each school day* it is late.
* In-class assignments missed during an excused absence may be made up the following day without any deduction.
* All students are responsible for homework posted online regardless of absences.